

## Laser program sees new director in Spring

*by Ken Englade, Airborne Laser Division*

**KIRTLAND AFB, N.M.** — Colonel Ellen M. Pawlikowski, deputy director of Global Power Programs in the Pentagon office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, took over this Spring as the new director of the Airborne Laser System Program Office at Kirtland AFB, N.M.

Pawlikowski succeeded Col. Michael W. Booen, who has been director at ABL since January 1997. Booen has been reassigned to Los Angeles AFB, Calif., where he will be director of the Space Based Infrared Systems program.

The change of command took place on April 4.

Pawlikowski was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1978 after graduating from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark but did not begin active duty until earning her doctorate in chemical engineering from the University of California at Berkeley in December 1981.

Before moving to her position in the Pentagon in June 1999, Pawlikowski was chief of the USAF's Revolutionizing Training Division at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio. She also served previously at the Pentagon, first as director of the Acquisition Management Office under the Assistant to the Secretary for Atomic Energy, from June 1994 to March 1996, and as deputy to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counterproliferation from March 1996 to June 1997.

She was promoted to lieutenant colonel on April 1, 1992, and to colonel on October 1, 1996.

In her new role at Kirtland she will be responsible for the development of the Airborne Laser, the Air Force's theater ballistic missile defense system. The program's first aircraft, a 747-400 freighter, was recently delivered to the Boeing facility at Wichita, Kan., and currently is undergoing modifications to make it ready for installation of the chemically operated laser that will be the heart of the system. The aircraft, which carries the historic tail number 00-0001 signifying it is the first Air Force aircraft of the new millennium, is expected to be ready for testing in about two years.

In his new position, Booen will direct the Air Force program charged with developing, deploying, and sustaining space-based surveillance systems for missile warning, missile defense and technical intelligence. @